




## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: May 7, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item XII: Consideration of resolution authorizing the application for grant funds for the Soledad Canyon Conceptual Area Protection Plan to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2002, the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the application for grant funds for the Soledad Canyon Conceptual Area Protection Plan to the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhoods, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2002, the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84).

Background: For the 2007/08 fiscal year, \$37 million is expected to be available for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy's (RMC) grant and capital outlay program. These funds will be awarded for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources consistent with the statute creating the RMC. The grant guidelines published in September 2007 require that the MRCA submit an Authorizing Resolution from the Governing Board. Applications for Step II funding are due May 23, 2008.

MRCA staff will be submitting the Step II application for Soledad Canyon Conceptual Area Plan Protection (CAPP) Acquisitions project. MRCA staff had previously submitted a Step I application for the project to the RMC Grant Program back in November 2007. The amount of funding requested in the Step I application was \$900,000. On January 28, 2008, the RMC Governing Board approved the

recommendation that MRCA's Soledad CAPP Acquisitions project be granted Tier 1 status. This action allowed MRCA to proceed on to the Step II application process with the Soledad CAPP Acquisitions project.

The Soledad Canyon CAPP addresses a land acquisition program to provide an adequate habitat linkage between the two major portions of the Angeles National Forest. This habitat linkage was also addressed by the South Coast Wildlands Project in its Missing Linkages program via a report, entitled, "*South Coast Missing Linkages Project - A Linkage Design for the San Gabriel - Castaic Connection.*" The CAPP was prepared by a broad list of agency staff members including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy), the MRCA, RMC, The Nature Conservancy, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, State Coastal Conservancy, City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County Nature Centers, and California Department of Fish and Game. This group is still meeting under the auspices of the State Coastal Conservancy's watershed coordinator program and is known as the Upper Santa Clara River Biodiversity Working Group.

The MRCA is focusing its efforts on open space acquisition around State Route 14 and Agua Dulce Canyon and Santa Clara River proper.